

THE MESSAGE

President Cleveland's First

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TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
Your assembling is clouded by a sense of public bereavement, caused by the recent and sudden death of Thomas A. Hendricks, Vice President of the United States. His distinguished public services, his complete integrity and devotion to every duty, and his personal virtues will find honorable record in his country's history.

Ample and repeated proofs of the esteem and confidence in which he was held by his fellow-countrymen were manifested by his election to offices of the most important trust and highest dignity; and at length,

The constitution, which requires those chosen to legislate for the people to annually meet in the discharge of their solemn trust, also requires the President to give to Congress information of the state of the Union and recommend to their consideration such measures as he shall deem necessary and expedient. At the threshold of a compliance with these constitutional directions, it is well for us to bear in mind that our usefulness to the people's interests will be promoted by a constant appreciation of the scope and character of our respective duties as they relate to federal legislation. While

ures as he shall deem expedient, the responsibility for legislative action must and should rest upon those selected by the people to make their laws.

Contemplation of the grave and responsible functions assigned to the respective branches of the government, under the constitution, still demands the partition of power between our respective departments and their necessary independence, and also the need for the exercise of all the powers intrusted to each, in that spirit of comity and co-operation which is essential to the proper fulfillment of the patriotic obligations which rest upon us as faithful servants of the people.

The jealous watchfulness of our constitutions, great and small, supplement

FOREIGN RELATIONS.

It is gratifying to announce that the relations of the United States with all foreign powers continue to be friendly. Our position after nearly a century of successful constitutional government, maintenance of good faith in all our engagements, the absence of good cause with other nations, and our consistent and amicable attitude toward the strong and weak alike, furnish proof of a political disposition which renders professions of good will unnecessary. There are no questions of difficulty pending with any foreign government.

The Argentine government has revived the long dormant question of the Falkland

indemnity for their loss, attributed to the action of the commander of the sloop-of-war Lexington in breaking up a piratical company on board his vessel in 1851, and their subsequent occupation of the islands.

In view of the ample justification for the acts of the Lexington and the derelict condition of the islands before and after their alleged occupation by Argentine colonists, this government considers the claim a well-founded one.

Question has arisen with the government of Austria-Hungary touching the representation of the United States at Vienna. Having, under my constitutional prerogative, appointed an estimable citizen of unimpeachable probity and competence as minister to the emperor, I have been surprised to be apprised that the government of Austria-Hungary limited this government's

based upon allegations against the person whose acceptance of Mr. Kelley, the appointed envoy, asking that, in view thereof, the appointment should be withdrawn. Mr. Kelley's reasons advanced were that such could not be acquiesced in, without violation of my oath of office and the precepts of the constitution, since they necessarily involved a limitation in favor of a foreign government upon the right of selection by the Executive. The question of the propriety of such religious test as a qualification for office under the United States as would have resulted in the practical disfranchisement of a large class of our citizens and the abandonment of a vital principal in our government. The Austro-Hungarian government filed a protest against the appointment of Mr. Kelley as the United States' envoy to the United States, and the

Early in March last, war broke out in Central America, caused by the attempt of Guatemala to consolidate the several states into a single government. In these contests between our neighboring states the United States has been called upon to render the aid of their friendly offices in the prevention of war and to promote peace and concord among the belligerents, and for such counsel contributed importantly to the restoration of tranquillity in that locality.

Emergencies growing out of civil war in Mexico and Sinaloa have also called for the co-operation at the beginning of the year.

force to fulfill its guarantees under the thirty-fifth article of the treaty of 1846, in order to keep the transit open across the Isthmus of Panama. Desirous of exercising its rights under the treaty, and mindful of the rights of Colombia, the forces sent to the isthmus were instructed to confine their action to "positively and efficaciously" preventing the transit and its accessories from being interrupted or embarrassed, and to exercise no responsible task necessarily involved police control where the local authority was temporarily powerless, but always in aid of the sovereignty of Colombia.

The prompt and successful fulfillment of its duty by this government was highly appreciated by the government of Colombia.